Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 03060 201554Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /026 W

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R 201400Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9384

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN AMCONSUL DOUALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 3060

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: PFOR, CM, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, VISITS

CAMEROON

REF: LAGOS 9217

- 1. BRIG SHEHU YAR'ADUA AND ENTOURAGE (REFTEL) VISITED YAOUNDE FROM AUG 13-15. HE HAILED AS NIGERIAN PRIME MINISTER IN LOCAL PRESS AND ATTENDED NUMBER AFFIARS, INCLUDING GRADUATION CADETS MILITARY ACADEMY (ECOLE MILITAIRE INTERARMES DU CAMEROUN EMIA) AND RECEPTION FOLLOWING, STATE DINNER AND PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS PRESIDENT AHIDJO. AT RECEPTION AHIDJO, YAR-ADUA AND NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR SANI FREQUENTLY SEEN IN STAGE CENTER WITH NON-DRINKING AHIDJO UNCHARACTERISTICALLY CRACKING JOKES AND SLAPPING OTHERS ON BACK.
- 2. NIGERIAN CHARGE ALHAJI M WAZIRI LAMINO (AMB SANI CAME AND LEFT WITH DELEGATION) CLAIMED VISIT MERELY GOOD WILL AS NO ONE EQUIVALENT RANK HAD VISITED CAMEROON SINCE FEBRUARY ATTEMPTED COUP HAD RESULTED ELEVATION GEN OBASANJO AS NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 03060 201554Z

CHIEF OF STATE.

3. COMMENT: YAR'ADUA GIVEN GOOD PRESS COVERAGE. HE QUOTED AS SAYING "OUR TWO COUNTRIES LIVE AS ONE PEOPLE." THIS MAY REFER TO COMMON HAUSA-FULANI HERITAGE. HOWEVER, NERVOUS CAMEROON (7 MILLION POPULATION) VIEWS NIGERIAN 75 MILLION WITH SUSPICION AND APPREHENSION. SOUGY CAMEROONIANS, PARTICULARLY FORMER WEST CAMEROONIANS, WOULD, FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, NOT WISH BE CHARACTERIZED AS "ONE PEOPLE" WITH NIGERIGANS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976YAOUND03060

Document Number: 1976YAOUND03060
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760320-0598 From: YAOUNDE

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760832/aaaabbhk.tel Line Count: 70 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 LAGOS 9217 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 22 JUN 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, VISITS CAMEROON

TAGS: PFOR, CM, NI, (YAR'ADUA, SHEHU)

To: LAGOS

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006